



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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TO: Early Intervention Primary Referral Sources, Pediatricians, and Physicians

FROM: The Department of Public Health – Early Intervention Program

DATE: December 18, 2007

**RE: Policy Changes Regarding Confirmed Diagnosis of Congenital Torticollis
and Autism Spectrum Disorder - Effective January 1, 2008**

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The Department of Public Health's Early Intervention program continues to experience caseload growth and increasing costs. As a result of the following policies and practices are being implemented as of January 1, 2008.

Clarification of Torticollis Diagnosis on the Established Conditions list

Infants and toddlers with ***congenital torticollis*** will be eligible for EI services. Effective January 1, 2008 a confirmed diagnosis from a physician will be required to be kept in the child's file. Children with ***acquired torticollis*** (does not require a confirmed diagnosis from a physician) will be eligible for EI if they meet the other appropriate eligibility guidelines.

Require ASD eligibility screening tool – A written diagnosis confirming that a child meets the DSM-IV criteria for one of the five disorders under the Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis must be provided by a professional familiar with the spectrum (physician, clinical psychologist, LMHC approved by DPH for this purpose). When the diagnostic appointment cannot be scheduled in a timely way, written documentation that a child is on the autism spectrum from a pediatrician or other physician will be accepted based on presumptive eligibility if it is accompanied by confirming results on an autism screening tool (such as the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers [M-CHAT] or the Pervasive Developmental Disabilities Screening Test II). A written confirming diagnosis must be obtained within 180 days to continue Specialty Services Program participation.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions to the Early Intervention System.